

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
Public Planning Committee Meeting APPROVED
Thursday, April 2, 2015
3:00p.m. – Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

Committee Members Present: Chairman Tom Lennox, Kim Likins, and John McCann

Committee Members Absent: None

Town Council Present: None

Town Staff Present: Marcy Benson, Senior Grants Administrator
Sally Krebs, Sustainable Practices Coordinator
Teri Lewis, LMO Official
Charles Cousins, Director of Community Development
Jill Foster, Deputy Director of Community Development
Shawn Colin, Deputy Director of Community Development
Kathleen Carlin, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance

Public notification of this meeting has been published and posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The committee **approved** the minutes of the March 5, 2015 meeting as submitted by general consent.

4. New Business

Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint – Request for recommendation to Town Council for approval of the Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint. The final step in the Audubon International Sustainable Communities Program is to create a long-term sustainability plan. The Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint serves as this document and will guide sustainability efforts by the Town. Chairman Lennox introduced the item and requested that staff make their presentation.

Ms. Marcy Benson made the presentation on behalf of staff. Ms. Benson presented an in-depth overhead review of the Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint. The staff requested that the Public Planning Committee forward the resolution to Town Council with a recommendation of approval. Ms. Benson stated that on March 4, 2015 the Planning Commission unanimously approved a recommendation to Town Council to approve by resolution the Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint.

Ms. Benson stated that the Town participated in Stage 1 of the program, the Assessment Stage, and received the Green Community Designation in September 2011. The Town then participated in Stage 2 of the program, which is the Planning Stage. The final step “Stage 2: Planning” is Audubon International’s Sustainable sustainability plan. The plan, titled the “Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint”, meets this requirement. Audubon International states that the sustainability plan created during the Stage 2: Planning process should be considered as a guiding document for Town of Hilton Head Island sustainability efforts.

When the Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint receives approval by resolution from Town Council, Audubon International will present the Program Planning Award and the Town will be eligible to move to the Program’s Stage 3: Implementation.

In 2010 Town Council requested staff to pursue the Audubon International Sustainable Communities Program certification. In September 2011 the Town of Hilton Head Island received the Audubon International Green Community designation. This designation indicates successful completion of all steps in the Program Stage 1: Assessment. After receiving the Green Community designation Town Council requested Town staff to move forward with Stage 2 of the Program. This stage was a multi-year planning process comprised of four action steps, which included (1) creating a policy statement; (2) completing a sustainability portfolio table; (3) conducting community meetings; and (4) creating a long-term sustainability plan. Completion of Stage 2 of the Program built upon the base established by obtaining the Green Community designation.

The Town’s Green Community Steering Committee began work on Stage 2: Planning in August 2012. The steering committee developed a sustainable community policy which was adopted by Town Council in October 2012. Following adoption of the policy statement the sustainability portfolio table was completed and community meetings were held in January and February 2013. Development of the Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint began in the fall of 2013.

Community Development Department staff in collaboration with the steering committee, Audubon International staff, and Town staff in various departments drafted the Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint which addresses the 15 focus areas specified in the Program’s long-term sustainability plan requirement.

Each focus area of the “Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint” includes actions with identified purposes, measurable indicators, status updates and lead and partner designations which are unique to Hilton Head Island. The actions were developed with the aim to move the Town towards greater sustainability and future improvements. If continuation with Stage 3: Implementation of the Program commences, data gathering, and progress reports pertaining to the actions listed in the “Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint” will be submitted to Audubon International for review and follow-up. The information compiled will be used to develop case studies which would be available to other communities participating in the Program.

Continued use of the Audubon International logo and the use of educational and outreach materials provided by Audubon International are other components of participation in Stage 3: Implementation of the Program.

In addition to the Sustainable Communities Program, Audubon International administers the Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, which help golf courses protect the environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf; and the Green Lodgings Program, which provides assurances that audited lodging facilities meet environmental best practice standards.

Within the Town of Hilton Head Island there are four (4) Audubon International certified cooperative sanctuary golf courses; Harbour Town Golf Links, Heron Point Golf Course at Sea Pines Resort, Ocean Course at Sea Pines Resort, and Robert Trent Jones Course at Palmetto Dunes. The Arthur Hills Course in Palmetto Dunes is currently participating in the certification process. There are eight (8) Marriott properties located in the Town of Hilton Head Island with the Audubon International certified green lodging designation.

Ms. Sally Krebs presented statements regarding sustainability. The definition of sustainability is “the practice of meeting the needs of the current generation without degrading or destroying the natural resources and natural services that future generations will also need.” Sustainability involves three different levels: (1) environment level; (2) economic level; and also the (3) social level.

At the completion of staff’s presentation, Chairman Lennox requested public comments and the following were received: (1) Mr. Randy Tardy presented statements in support of the Sustainable Communities Program on Hilton Head Island.

The committee discussed the plan and complimented the staff on their efforts in developing the plan’s goals. The committee and the staff briefly discussed the achievable goals related to traffic and transportation. Following final comments by the committee, Chairman Lennox requested that a motion be made.

Mrs. Likins made a **motion** that the Public Planning Committee **forward** the resolution for the Hilton Head Island Green Blueprint to Town Council with a recommendation of **approval** as presented. Mr. McCann **seconded** the motion and the motion **passed** with a vote of 3-0-0.

5. Committee Business

None

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20p.m.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

May 7, 2015

Kathleen Carlin
Administrative Assistant

Tom Lennox
Chairman